(b) to (d) Central assistance of Rs. 518.38 lakhs was provided by the Government of India during the last three financial years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 to the State Government of Haryana under the Central schemes for development of horticulture in Haryana, against, which the state government has reported utilisation of Rs. 604.66 lakhs during the same period, including the utilisation of unspent funds from previous years, under the Central schemes. The year-wise details are as indicated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Financial Year	Funds released by Centre	Funds utilised by State
1994-95	214.72	173.63
1995-96	177.60	173.50
1996-97	126.06	257.53
Total	518.38	604.66

(e) and (f) The utilisation of the assistance under the schemes is being monitored by the Government of India through progress reports to be furnished by the State governments, Area officers meetings, field visits by senior officers of the Government and periodic review meetings.

Drip Irrigation Sets Scheme

2120. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrear of subsidy is pending with the Government;

(b) the estimated requirement of subsidy during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more additional funds for installation of Drip Irrigation Sets Scheme during the current year ;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the subsidy provided by the Government to small and marginal farmers particularly for those farmers who belong to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is reaching to them;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The allocation for the year 1996-97 has been released to the States in total.

(b) to (d) The allocation of funds for meeting the subsidy towards drip irrigation during 1997-98 is Rs. 82.79 crores, which is higher than allocations for the previous years.

(e) to (g) The Government have directed the State Governments to ensure that a minimum of 25% of the sanctioned amount for drip installation is utilised for the benefit of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the respective States. The concerned State Governments have been further directed to work out the details of subsidy flowing to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes including small, marginal and women farmers on a rational basis after taking into account the local conditions and population of these categories of farmers.

Import of Wheat from Australia

2121. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import one million tonnes wheat from Australia;

(b) whether steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to review their decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has authorised import upto 2 Million tonnes of wheat during 1997-98. The State Trading Corporation of India has already contracted for importing 1 Million tonnes of wheat from Australia in the first instance.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Use of Diesel Pump Set for Underground Water

2122. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Members of Parliament for providing subsidy on diesel pump sets used in agriculture in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which subsidy on diesel pump set is likely to be provided for irrigation purpose indicating the proposed subsidy to be given ?